

# Journal of The American Institute of ARCHITECTS



HENRY VAN BRUNT

March, 1948

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President Orr's Dayton Speech

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Texas Stages a Seminar

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Summary of the Pan American Congress

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The Architect's Professional Vista, Part II

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The Dean's House, Princeton

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Construction Needs Coordination

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Competitions • Traveling Fellowship • Calendar

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# JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

MARCH, 1948

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## President Orr's Dayton Speech

By request of members who heard President Orr address the Great Lakes District Regional Meeting at Dayton, Ohio, on October 3, 1947 we print herewith a somewhat abbreviated transcript of his remarks.

WHEN assembled together, architects never talk about architecture, so at the risk of talking shop I should like to speak about the architectural profession, about The American Institute of Architects, and discuss in some particular the background of The Institute, as well as its aims and objectives as of today.

Before outlining what we hope to accomplish in the future we might reminisce a bit about our beginnings. I think it important that we bring to mind what the average member may fail to remember, and that is the length of time The Institute has been functioning, the period through which it has grown up, and what it has achieved to the present day.

I am indebted to the late Frank C. Baldwin for early historic notes about The Institute.



From the Colonial period of American history down through the first half of the nineteenth

century, much of the early architecture of our country was the creation of designers who had received their training in London, or had availed themselves of publications of those times devoted to the builder's art. It must be remembered that the earlier architects had a hard struggle to win public recognition as professional men, and often were compelled to turn to other pursuits to enable them to maintain a bare existence. George Mason notes that in 1804 William Bridges, a man of note, advertised that he was an engineer, architect and land surveyor; and at the same time the advertisement set forth that Mrs. Bridges had for sale a general assortment of millinery, ladies' morning dresses and children's coats.

Then, too, in those early days there existed in the public mind a confusion as to the distinction between an architect as a professional man and a carpenter or builder. A confusion which the passing of

a century has failed to eradicate completely!

It is not difficult to understand that because of this chaotic condition there was germinated the idea that if the architects of the country could be united they could assist each other in the acquiring of the professional knowledge necessary for their progress and in fostering a more general appreciation on the part of the public. In 1836 a number of such professional architects grouped themselves together and formed an organization known as the American Institution of Architects, and they held a convention in Philadelphia in 1837. Whether or not this was the parent of The American Institute of Architects seems to be a question upon which historians disagree. Our present-day Institute was formed and incorporated in the State of New York, April 13, 1857. Therefore our Institute is now in its 91st year.

I think it worth while to call it to mind that during these past 90 years momentous events took place in this country, events which have contributed much to the swift pace of our country's growth but, beyond that, developments generated by a great challenge and carried through by men of strong fiber.

We might profit from a moment's reflection on a few of those amazing events: It was not until 1859, two years after the birth of The Institute, that the first oil well was drilled. It was not until 1862 that the manufacture of turbines was commenced—those turbines which were to become so important in the development of electrical energy. It was not until 1869 that a cross-country journey by rail was possible, when the trans-continental link was completed. It was not until 1867 that the telephone became an actuality; and in 1878 the first switchboard for commercial service was placed in operation in New Haven, with 21 subscribers. It was not until 1879 that Edison's incandescent lamp fired the imagination of the populace. It was not until 1896 that Marconi made patent application for the wireless, the beginning of that which we call radio nowadays and casually accept as daily fare. It was even later that the internal-combustion engine was developed—that engine which has become our principal means of transportation in automobiles and planes.



The Institute came into being in troubled political times. Our

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house was divided against itself, the war between the states intervened, and during its first decade The Institute made little progress. When we bring this to mind, together with pondering on the developments in science and engineering and all the modern contrivances and contraptions contributing to our physical well-being, is it any wonder that the impress made on the esthetic side by architecture has been much less spectacular.

Ninety years ago the professional architect enjoyed scant recognition as a necessary factor in the development of the community or any part thereof. And he was handicapped sadly by suspicions and petty jealousies among his fellow practitioners, because of the lack of any accepted standards of professional practice. The opportunities which The Institute afforded through its chapter meetings and conventions, for men to meet in intimate association and to cooperate for their common cause, broke down many barriers of individual reserve and suspicion. We should record our gratitude and indebtedness to those unselfish men who bore the brunt of the battle through the long years and by their unswerving loyalty and fine exam-

ple made possible our organization of today.

The American Institute of Architects has contributed greatly to the standards and machinery of practice, knowledge of materials and methods, not alone in documentary form but a fund of information invaluable to the profession. without which guidance practice would be much more difficult. It has labored faithfully and diligently for a broader understanding of architecture as a physical language. If we have not yet realized the complete fulfilment of our aspirations and achievement of our ideals, we can derive much satisfaction from the degree of recognition accorded the profession today.

It is well to keep in mind, too, that The American Institute of Architects is made up of individuals, and those individuals, through their chapters and associations, determine the policies which are to be pursued. Some may feel that The Institute is something apart, located in Washington, and while it is true that the mechanics of conducting the general activities are carried on in The Octagon, the individual member is still the vital spark of The Institute; and it is only the interest or the apathy

that you display which will help or hurt the national body.

Membership in The Institute is, of itself, a certificate of merit in the professional field. That an architect is qualified to render that full measure of professional service to which a client or the public is entitled; that he will practise honorably, and willingly make his contributions to the general welfare and the advancement of the profession, is implied by Institute membership.

Within and without the ranks of The Institute there are those who criticize it for lack of inspiration and lack of leadership. From the papers of incorporation of The Institute I find that "the object of this society is to elevate the architectural profession as such and to perfect its members practically and scientifically." And from the By-Laws I quote: "The object of The A.I.A. shall be to organize and unite in fellowship the architects of the U.S.A., and to combine their efforts so as to promote the esthetic, scientific and practical efficiency of the profession, to advance education in architecture and in the arts and sciences allied therewith, and to make the profession of ever-increasing service to society."

The Board, at its meeting in Memphis in 1943 adopted general long-range objectives which read as follows: "The American Institute of Architects is to so organize as to furnish adequate and inspiring leadership and service to the public, to the profession and to professional education, through the development of long-range objectives, so that the architect may occupy himself with every phase of life in the civilization of which he is a part, and that he may help improve the physical framework of our living."

These, gentlemen, are our objectives; and to me they imply a will for inspiration, a will for leadership. They set forth the highest challenge, and we cannot, we must not, fail. I contend that the truest form of leadership anyone can offer is the finest professional service on the highest ethical plane. A team becomes famous because of performance and not paper statistics.

Someone has said: "There is no present, there is only a past and a future." I have sketched the past; let's consider our future aims and direction.

The Institute has long been eager for an enlarged membership

and has constantly stimulated this activity. With the completion of the unification program The Institute will have done all it may to bring the members of the profession together into close working relationship and fellowship. By far, the majority of the architects of the country will be represented in and by The Institute.

However, in addition to unification of members we need unity of purpose, and that presupposes a profession within which the members put the welfare of the profession and the public above their own, at all times.

During the war, and as unification proceeded, it became evident that the organization of The Institute would be inadequate to cope with its affairs in an efficient manner; but at that moment little could be done except make studies with a view to such changes as would remedy the situation. Accordingly, The Board, at its meeting in Atlantic City in 1945, appointed a Committee on the Structure of The Institute, to determine how best to reorganize to provide facilities necessary for carrying out our objectives. This committee spent a year on a pilot study of fundamental changes required to enable The Institute to furnish tangible lead-

ership and inspiration, not alone to our membership but to the public as well, and to carry out our stated objectives.

Its recommendations were adopted and authorized at the Miami Convention in 1946, but appointment of the needed personnel was not completed until July of this year. The wheels are turning but, as you well know, a machine cannot start at full speed. It does take time to generate momentum and we will accelerate, in due time, under the adopted set-up. The BULLETIN for January 1946 set forth in detail the organization as adopted and outlined the fields of action for the various departments of The Institute. If you will review this BULLETIN and re-read the basic objectives you will find that we have a framework within which we can translate our high ideals into action.

When we consider the complex civilization in which we now live, it is small wonder that the architect has not always been able to keep pace with the intricacies of our social problems, our technical problems, and numberless others. Yet he must be conversant with them as a minimum, if we are to give leadership, and if he is to act as chairman of a board

of experts. This demands a high degree of professional competence, not for a few alone but for all of our members. The education of the architect should never cease, and it is the purpose of The Institute to make available to each member knowledge of where to find source material to aid him in continuing his education on many relevant subjects; whether on planning, techniques, technological advances, or building in specialized field, so the membership may know where to turn for needed background or knowledge, and intelligently understand basic requirements. From then on, of course, he must proceed on his own.

Again, in the complicated civilization of which we are a part, demands are explicit in connection with given structures, and this leads toward specialization. This is a tremendous challenge to our profession if we are to solve our problems adequately. For example, educators are constantly seeking new and enlightened interpretation of school buildings for their particular programs. Similarly, the demand comes from hospitals, libraries, churches, and other fields. It is not possible for many of our members to have these sources of information available without the

aid of The Institute. At the moment the bibliographies being printed in the BULLETIN are directed toward the building types for which the demand is most noticeable. If architects themselves become proficient in the knowledge which this material makes possible, I believe it will tend to reduce the demand for specialized bureaus, a bugbear to many practitioners at the present time.

The Institute is made up of men who have much knowledge, individually, some in one field and some in another; but collectively the membership has tremendous knowledge, and it is our hope that we will be able to step up the sharing of this knowledge, one with another through the exchange of information in the BULLETIN, and through seminars, clinics and conferences, not alone at the national level but at the regional and local levels as well.



Some practitioners feel that it is not within the purpose of the architect's function to be concerned with city or urban redevelopment. To me this is almost like a doctor refusing to recognize a case of the measles. An architect must be conscious of his role in social, economic

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and political situations, in land planning, public health and safety, and a myriad other problems. Each has its special proponents and advocates, but if the architect is to be the over-all coordinator, his work and study must be constant and he must be informed on all allied subjects. This requires tenacity of purpose. Urban redevelopment is a social and economic problem as well as an architectural one and profoundly affects the public welfare. The Institute will try to develop more and closer collaboration among the other agencies concerned with this work, with a view to bringing about concerted action for progress. In the final analysis the architect's welfare is bound up inextricably with that of the public, and there is no question as to where our responsibility lies.

Consider our Number One social problem of today—Housing. It is absolutely essential that the profession and The Institute aid in finding the solution. No organization can contribute more than we.

[Then followed a brief sketch of the purpose and progress of committees on urban redevelopments, housing, criteria and standards relating to financing of homes, building codes, architectural education, governmental

relations, and public health; also news of the new Field Secretary's activities.]

It is our aim, too, to encourage the younger members of the profession. Granted that youth is always enthusiastic about its own endeavors, and oftentimes impatient with, if not intolerant of, its elders, whether in architecture or other fields, we must remember that the principal experience in life of some of our younger men has been through difficult years of depression and war. Only with greater understanding of each other's problems and approach can we resolve differences of opinion between philosophies. Wherever possible we are asking younger men to serve on committees, to learn of The Institute's operation, and to bring a fresh viewpoint to our activities and problems.

The Grand Rapids Convention in May adopted a revised code of professional practice—divided into two parts: The "Sermon on the Mount," advisory to proper procedure; and the "Eight Commandments" which are mandatory for the profession. It behooves every one of us to read these, to digest them and to be guided by them. Maintenance of a strict code of



ethics is mandatory for the profession. An ethical guide for the world was set down two thousand years ago—the Ten Commandments. Yet one need only to look at the courts of our land to realize that civilization itself needs constant reminders so that all may learn to live and work together in harmony and fair play. One of the immediate aims of The Institute is to help its members become more and more proficient, to urge them to accept their responsibilities and so to make their contributions to the public welfare that The Institute may go on to greater endeavors and provide that inspiration and leadership so needed today. This requires endless perseverance and eternal vigilance, but we can and we must meet the challenge.

## Hospital Seminar of the Texas Society

*By David C. Baer*

THE SEMINAR IDEA merits serious consideration. It can be considered for a continuous and permanent place in the architectural profession. It implies original and exhaustive research in a specific field or upon a particular analysis. When we meet as architects in a seminar, we bring with

An old Arab saying advises: "When you cross the desert plant trees by the way. You may return, old and weary, to sit under their shadow and eat their fruit." If we keep architectural practice on the highest level of competence and integrity, if every architect realizes his personal, inescapable responsibility to contribute to the program of his profession and to the welfare of the public, by personal service on committees of The Institute and its local chapters or other components, on boards or commissions in his own community, or by other means, then—and only then—will we have our fruit in abundance and be privileged to enjoy that satisfaction of creation and accomplishment which is part of an architect's compensation.

us the background of our collective experiences. We have the common purpose of sincere study and make it a place to develop answers to our common problems. We should welcome and demand these meetings, since, after all, our heritage as architects is a search for the best solution to every problem.

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Seminars can be made to include people from outside the profession. If such people have a common interest with architects, they may pose new problems to solve, and they can be of aid in finding better answers to our old problems. By participating with us in such meetings, these people come into closer contact with the work of our profession. As laymen, they thus learn of the sincerity of purpose which characterizes architects, and come to have a better understanding of the time and effort we are willing to put forth.

At the national level there seems to be a place for the seminar. Here men experienced in a field find a forum to discuss their mutual problems. They can also state and justify their individual points of view with fellow members of the profession. At the regional or state level there is probably a more basic need. Here the experts bring to the novice and the less experienced the basic principles, together with the summary of the current and newest thinking in the field.

All the above purposes and aims must have prompted the program of seminars begun at The Institute's Convention last year at Grand Rapids. They were a guide in the planning of our Hospital Seminar

sponsored by the Texas Society of Architects at our convention in October 1947, in Fort Worth, Texas. The desire shown by the architects of Texas for information concerning the organizing, financing, programing, planning and constructing of hospitals was our justification. The willingness of Texas architects, doctors and hospital administrators to come to the meeting made it possible. The fine group of speakers we were able to secure for the program was the best reason for its general interest and success. The aims and purposes outlined above, however, were the underlying reasons for its being recommended.



With the idea that the experience of Texas in this effort might be of aid to other localities, we are asked by the JOURNAL to tell just what we did, how and with what effect.

The first move was to secure the support of the Houston Chapter, which approved a resolution directed to the Texas Society of Architects recommending the holding of one or more seminars in conjunction with the 1947 annual convention of the Society. A canvass of the several State chapters

by the State president indicated a wide interest in seminars. With this general assurance, a statewide Seminar Committee was then appointed to investigate possibilities and to make recommendations to the board of directors. This committee consisted of a chairman and one member selected at large, one representative from each chapter and one representative from each of four architectural schools in the state.

This Seminar Committee held one general meeting concurrent with the next meeting of the board of directors of the Texas Society of Architects. At the first session, the committee developed the following program to recommend to the board:

1. A seminar should be held.
2. Hospital Planning should be the only field covered.
3. The program should consist of five meetings to be held in two days. The last meeting should be concurrent with the first meeting of the general convention and should cover general hospital subjects.
4. A number of nationally known hospital experts from outside as well as within the limits of the Southwest should be asked to lead the discussions.
5. The expenses of speakers should be paid.

6. Admission for members of T. S. A. should be \$15, and for non-members, \$20.

7. Doctors, hospital administrators, and other interested people in Texas should be invited to participate.

8. All architects in New Mexico and Oklahoma should receive an invitation to attend.

9. A student competition on the "Small Hospital" should be sponsored, with appropriate prizes offered for the three best problems. The fifth-year architectural students of the Rice Institute, Texas A. & M. College, Texas Technological Institute, and the University of Texas should be invited to participate in this competition.

The above program was approved by the board of directors. The Seminar Committee then met in its second session and set up a detailed program as follows:

1. The chairman and two members of the Seminar Committee should act as an executive committee to secure speakers and attend to the details of arranging the meeting and the program.
2. The general program should include all phases of hospital planning.
3. The members of the committee in each chapter should urge his chapter members to attend.
4. The committee member from each chapter would personally invite the hospital administrators in

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his area as well as other interested people.

5. A subcommittee would be responsible for organizing and conducting the student competition with the following rules:

a. Three submissions from each of the four architectural schools should be offered for judgment.

b. Prizes should be for the three best: \$50, \$30 and \$20.

c. All fifth-year students should be invited to attend the seminar as guests of the Texas Society of Architects.

d. Fifteen dollars in expense money should be given each student whose submission was sent up for final judgment and who wished to attend the seminar.

After this meeting committee stationery was printed listing the members. This was used in inviting hospital experts over the country to participate in and lead the discussions. It was also used for the personally signed invitation sent to architects in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico, as well as to local and state hospital people. Return postcards were enclosed to make it easy to check intent to attend and need for hotel reservations. Hotel reservation requests were forwarded to the general Fort Worth Convention Committee.

It was decided that the program should stress the smaller hospital, since the need for this type of unit prevails in the Southwest. A copy of the tentative program was mailed with each invitation. A final program was developed when acceptances from speakers were received. A second invitation to the T.S.A. membership, with this program enclosed, was mailed with a self-addressed envelope for returning remittance to cover registration.

The details of arranging for the meeting place and other on-the-site details, in our case, were left to the Fort Worth Convention Committee. Accessibility and convenience for speakers as well as audience is necessary for a good location.

The program itself, as was to be expected, continued to change even as the meetings were in progress. These late changes, however, were of minor consequence. We were very fortunate in securing hospital people who were able to keep their dates with our seminar.

The field of hospital planning was broken down into a series of interrelated subjects to provide a program which covered a large part of hospital design. Subjects were assigned to the speakers and, at the end of each session, time was

reserved for a question-and-answer discussion directed to the speakers on subjects covered by that session. A different chairman was assigned for each discussion period. About forty-five minutes were allotted to this phase of each meeting.

Todd Wheeler, A.I.A., Director of Planning, Medical Center Commission, Chicago, led the first session with his discussion of "Preliminary Considerations in Hospital Planning." He summarized his paper by advising:

"Keep an open mind on program and ask lots of questions until you understand the working processes fully.

"Recommend a site in relation to the working needs of your hospital.

"Consider the advantages of teaching and research, in addition to medical care.

"When you have taken your planning team through the preliminary analysis, you will be ready to carry on with the design of your building."

This was followed with "Hospital Planning from the Administrative Viewpoint" by Lee C. Gammill, F.A.C.H.A., Administrator of St. Luke Episcopal Hospital, Houston, former Chief of Hospitalization, Army Air Corps. He advised:

"The administrator should re-

member that he must defend every step—that is taken and, more especially, be certain that the finished hospital building will contain all the needed functions arranged just right. It will be too late to wish to change after the building is completed. Do the planning in the planning stage or forever hold your tongue."

"Hospital Elements" was the first topic in the second session. August Hoenack, Assistant Chief of the Division of Hospital Facilities, U.S.P.H.S., Washington, D. C., did this well and drove home the problem of the small hospital when he said:

"The problem in designing the very small hospital is that nearly all of the functions that go on in a hospital of 100 or 150 beds must be provided for in this small hospital in some way or another."

Nat Owings, A.I.A., of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, Chicago, San Francisco and New York, followed with his discussion of "The Architectural Development of Hospital Elements." His display of the model hospital room as developed by his firm helped him present a very good case for a revision of design criteria and construction methods for hospitals of tomorrow.

The third session was started by

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Roy Hudenburg with "Correlation of Hospital Elements from the Administrative and Operational Viewpoint." As secretary of the Council on Hospital Planning and Plant Operation for the American Hospital Association, he presented facts developed by the Council. His suggestion was:

"When bids on a job have been taken and construction cost is shown to be higher than was originally anticipated, it would be far better to postpone the project entirely than to saddle the community with a hospital that cannot provide adequate service and that must be an economic burden as long as it exists."

Carl Erikson, F.A.I.A., of Schmidt, Garden & Erikson, Chicago, made the subject, "The Schematic Plan of the Hospital," an opportunity to give a chalk talk on hospital planning. He finished by sounding a keynote for hospital planning when he said:

"If hospital requirements would only stand still, the architect's task would be simpler; but the hospital is the workshop of the medicos, and today's techniques are tomorrow's scorn. The modern hospital is the most complex of today's structures."

The report of the jury for the student Small Hospital competi-

tion closed the third session. Todd Wheeler gave a very detailed and careful criticism of the problems and withstood a heavy barrage of questions at the end. The author of each of the three winning designs was required to defend his entry in this meeting.

The fourth session was started by Todd Wheeler who again appeared on the program to advise on "Planning Hospital Services for Expansion" as follows:

"You can never plan twenty years ahead and really know how things are going to be. Plan your present building to grow but don't sacrifice a good working plan to permit it."

Dr. Harvey Slocum, Department of Anesthesiology, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, followed with the subject, "Anaesthesia and Operating Room Areas." Dr. Slocum advocated for this purpose and area, among other things:

"Separate elevators for entrance and exit to surgical suite and soundproofing, pleasant color schemes and no windows for operating rooms."

"Hospital Service Areas from the Administrator's Viewpoint" as presented by Lawrence E. Payne, Administrator of Baylor Uni-

versity Hospital, Dallas, asked among other things for better kitchens:

"Since the dietary department is completely dependent on efficient operation of mechanical equipment"——

he challenged kitchen planners and equipment manufacturers to bring our standards up to those already reached in the Swedish and Italian hospitals.

To complete the coverage of the hospital planning problems, J. E. Guerrero, A.S.M.E., I.E.S., of Landauer & Guerrero, Mechanical Engineers, Dallas, in his paper "Planning the Mechanical Services of the Hospital" pointed out the importance of the mechanical plant in planning, for the hospital, to function, must have a mechanical system which can grow and expand and yet be mended, repaired and maintained without performing drastic and costly operations to walls, floors and ceilings.

The fifth session, which coincided with the opening of the convention, covered the U.S.P.H.S. hospital construction program. Representatives of each of the interested agencies spoke on the basic function of his agency in the overall program. This session was closed with a timely word about

the probable effect of this program on Texas hospitals by Thomas H. Head, President of the Texas Hospital Association, San Angelo, Texas.

Through the experience gained in planning our Texas Hospital Seminar, the following facts seem to stand out:

1. The subject must be timely and of interest to a large group.
2. Well-known and well-informed experts in the field chosen for the seminar are a necessary part.
3. Any subject of interest to architects is also of interest to one or more groups of laymen. Inviting such people to the meetings can be of mutual benefit.
4. The program should be planned well in advance of the date so speakers will be available and so all participants can plan accordingly.
5. The committee responsible for the meeting will have a selling job to do and should expect considerable sales resistance.
6. Tie in as many of the local architects as possible. Let them lead the sessions and the discussions.
7. The discussions give better results if a few key men are primed to lead off with good questions.
8. The discussion periods are very interesting and valuable.
9. Details of staging the meeting are very important and must be

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planned in advance. These include:

a. Arranging for a P.A. system that works.

b. Provision for getting people from the floor to a mike conveniently.

c. Provision for transcribing the proceedings. (A written record is invaluable to each person attending after the meeting is over.)

d. Provision for directional sign indicating the meeting room.

e. Provision for registration and name badges.

f. Provision for blackboards, projectors and screens, speakers' desks with podium and other such details.

10. Proper publicity nationally and locally.

11. Enough available money to

finance the meeting including the speakers' expenses. (The total cost of our seminar was about \$1,400, including transcribing the proceedings.)

12. A good strong committee, with each member willing to carry his share of the work.

With the wide selection of topics which might serve as seminar subjects, there should be no end to the need and desirability of such meetings. The pattern was well cut by The Institute at Grand Rapids in 1947. It can well be remodeled to fit the region and State. Even the busy architect will find time for a refresher course that will permit him to better serve his clients and himself.



## Available Traveling Fellowship

### The McKim Fellowship

Those graduates of the School of Architecture, Columbia University, are eligible for the McKim Fellowship, 1948, who are American citizens and have been graduated within the last twenty-five years. This award will be assigned by direct appointment of the Faculty of Architecture. It will enable the recipient to carry out a definite

and significant research project on a subject relative to architecture or city planning. The stipend is \$2,000. Further information can be obtained from Leopold Arnaud, Dean, School of Architecture, Columbia University, New York 27, N. Y. Application blanks are to be returned to the Secretary of the University not later than April 1, 1948.



## Summary of the VI Pan American Congress

*By Julian Clarence Levi, F.A.I.A.*

Mr. Levi was the Chairman of the U. S. Delegation, which was made up as follows: Official: Samuel I. Cooper, of Atlanta, Georgia, Lewis P. Hobart, F.A.I.A. of San Francisco, Marshall Shaffer, of U. S. Public Health Service, Ralph Walker, F.A.I.A. of New York, and Mr. Levi. Representing The A.I.A.: the above five and Meade Bolton, of Balboa, Canal Zone, H. Errol Coffin, of New York, Charles H. Crispin, of Los Angeles, and Marion I. Manley, of Coral Gables, Florida. Representing the American Institute of Planners: Ralph Walker. Representing the University of Florida: Augusto Guerra Soria, of Miraflores, Peru.

THE VI PAN AMERICAN CONGRESS of Architects at Lima last October passed a number of resolutions that should be of interest to us and merit efforts on the part of our membership and of our Government to benefit by them.

Their essence is contained in the report made to the Department of State. A copy is on file at The Octagon. For the information of the profession they may be summarized as follows:

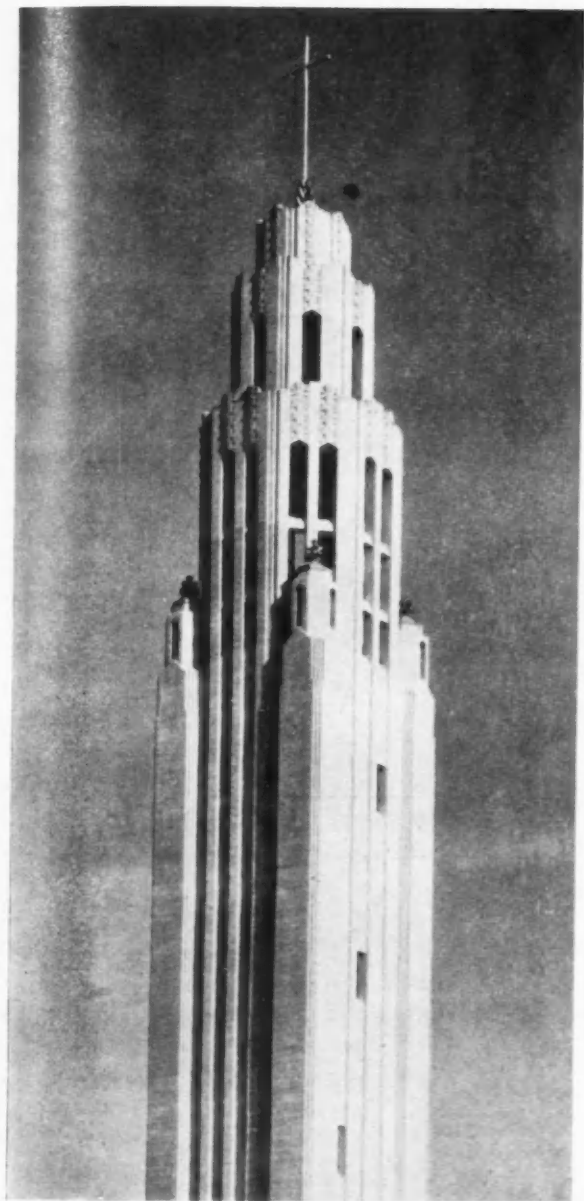
Starting with the status of the profession in its relation to other professions, to the public and to government, the Congress called for definition of the field of the architect's practice in each country. This would obviate the confusion that now exists and would lead to a legal recognition and protection of that field for the architect. It would enable the schools of architecture to develop a

curriculum in tune with the practice of the profession.

According to the action of the Congress, town planning and low-cost housing are included definitely in the field of architectural practice.

To organize the profession effectively and to determine and protect its field of activity, the creation of national bodies was urged similar to those successfully operated in the Argentine, Brazil, Chile, Cuba and Mexico, where they are known as *Colegios*. Membership is compulsory for the practice of architecture. They are protected by a law which charges them, as a minimum, with the control, protection, and judgment among architects in safeguarding professional ethics by boards of directors elected by their membership. They define architectural activities in relation to related professions. They formu-





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late a Code of Ethics and a Schedule of Minimum Fees, etc. They preserve the freedom of other architectural societies organized in other activities of the profession.

In the Latin American countries governmental, professional and educational relations are close. The attainment of such a program is relatively simple. In the U. S. A., with its States rights, etc., the situation is very complicated. Still, there is the possibility of learning something from the experience of our neighbors to the south. By developing the influence of The A.I.A. we can gradually approach a position which their governmental and educational systems permit.

The Congress also took a definite stand in regard to architectural education and its relation to the foregoing by calling for active contact between the schools and the professional organizations of each country. It stated that the only professional title suitable for award to one who studies the art of planning and architectural design, basing the study on the proper courses, is that of ARCHITECT. Consequently, the universities, institutes and professional organizations of architects of each country should determine clearly the limits of teaching.

The curricula should be organized on a technical and cultural basis to acquaint the students with the problems of contemporary life, with materials, techniques and the permanent principles of architecture. The students should learn to analyze, classify and compose the elements of a problem so as to develop creative capacity. They should be encouraged in a scientific attitude of curiosity concerning the basic reasons of each problem. As city planning is the broadest expression of architecture, the schools should intensify their curricula in this field.

Regarding city planning, it was recommended that Study Institutes on this subject be created in connection with the schools, to find scientific solutions. Further than that, the governments should be asked to form national organizations to investigate and coordinate all matters of urbanism and architecture. All countries should formulate Master Plans for their towns, establishing Community Units as a basic element, not only for unbuilt areas, but also for modernization of existing cities. National and Pan American planning organizations should be stimulated with active participation by architects.

Low-cost housing was declared a responsibility of the architect, and a long list of measures was recommended. The urgency of the problem resulted in a call for a Pan American Conference on Housing, to be held in March of this year at Santiago, Chile. The writer, however, has had no further advices about it.

The Congress called for a revision of building codes to permit use of new methods and materials; the selection of buildings of historic and artistic value for preservation and restoration; the creation of an annual Pan American Review of Architecture, containing year-by-year progress in all member countries. Peru has the first review as its responsibility. Other countries, in alphabetical order, will be called upon to continue it. The appointment of architects as "Cultural Attachés" to the embassies and legations should obtain effective technical collaboration. There should be created a Pan American System of Architectural Libraries, one central unit, having a branch in each country. The right to practise in any country by an architect duly qualified by his national organization should be achieved.

The Congress recognized the

necessity for a Pan American Committee that would function continuously to guide and to carry on the various activities affecting the member countries and to permit of constant exchange of information. The "Permanent Committee for Pan American Congresses of Architects," which sponsors the Congresses, is not organized in a manner to carry out such a program. It consequently proposed that it be superseded by a "Federation of Pan American Associations of Architects (F.A.P.A.) as soon as details are worked out and approved by a subsequent Congress.

The above is but a sketchy outline culled from the "Conclusions" reached by the seven working committees and unanimously adopted by the Congress at its plenary sessions. There was considerable overlapping of subject matter in their Conclusions, but no conflict of ideas. This should not be taken to mean that the delegates from seventeen nations saw eye to eye. The discussions were lengthy and frequently heated, but when a solution was found, it was acceptable to all. It was interesting to see that different committees, touching on phases of the same subject, reached harmonious Conclusions.

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In transmitting a copy of the delegation's report to The A.I.A., the request was made that the pertinent matters be referred to the appropriate committees for study and for recommendations. It is to be hoped that this will result in bringing them to the floor of the Convention for action in June.

Until fairly recently The Institute has not participated actively in international affairs. It devoted its energies quite naturally to the domestic field for which it was created. It now, through unification, has become a truly national organization. Consequently, not only our Government but also foreign governments and societies to look to it as the representative of our

country in matters of international importance. Service in this field is now vital. It must not be looked upon as extraneous, for it can strengthen our reputation nationally. Should we fail at this crucial moment, when the Pan American relations are resumed and a new international organization is being formed in Europe, not only will we miss a great opportunity but also a group, independent of the Institute, will be created by these international organizations to represent them in the U. S. A.

The Institute surely does not wish to abdicate and will supply the necessary man power and funds to carry on in the broader field of foreign usefulness.

## The Architect's Professional Vista

*By Henry S. Churchill*

### IN TWO PARTS—PART II

An address before the Cleveland Chapter, A. I. A. on November 20, 1947

**W**HAT IS the architectural future of the super-expressway in cities? Surely its characteristics are neither those of the same highway in the country nor those of the grand boulevards of the past.

Then there is large-scale housing, public and private, which is an es-

sential part of city planning as well as an architectural problem of the first magnitude. The architectural profession has not done very well in this field so far. There have been a few good, even excellent, site plans and some ingenious layouts, it is true. But for the most part, the projects—and I mean the

private ones as well as public—are mean, dull and spiritless. This applies particularly to the big-city projects: those in New York City are utterly ugly, the vertical counterpart of the old brownstones. Here is a real challenge to the architect.

Besides the architectural opportunities in replanning and in rebuilding our cities, there will be even greater ones in planning new cities. Decentralization, or as some prefer to call it, *recentralization*, is no longer a theory but a fact. The over-concentration and super-congestion that culminated in the peak of the late 'twenties is now definitely on the decline. The movement out from the center is no longer merely one of the well-to-do to the suburbs. It is now a genuine process of forming new nuclei in the metropolitan areas. Industry, labor and retail commerce are seeking room for expansion and better living. Industry after industry has found that the one-story factory is the most efficient to operate, and this to an extent that makes it profitable to scrap seemingly perfectly good multi-story plants. The operational savings pay for the change in a few years. Moreover, the benefits extend beyond the efficiency of

the process of manufacturing. Shipping costs are cut because of easier truck access; the parking problem for employees and visitors is solved; labor is better satisfied because it is better housed, because it is possible to raise families decently, in decent surroundings; taxes are lower, too.

When industry and labor move, retail trade and the so-called service industries follow. New towns spring up. Most of this movement, this new growth is now sporadic and unplanned. A great deal of it is speculative and wasteful. It need not be so, for the advantages of planned and controlled urban growth have been amply demonstrated. These advantages are very real. They prevent exorbitant speculative profits and canalize and, therefore, stabilize real estate values. They also assist in keeping municipal expenses down and assure the continuance of decent living conditions. Control of greed does not interfere with legitimately profitable enterprise. Quite the contrary.

The continuation of this draining off of industry and population will, of course, have serious economic effects on the old cities. However, it is not the economics that I wish to emphasize, except

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to point out that the worse off those cities become, the greater the necessity for replanning them, and also in some ways the easier it will be. My point is that not since the development of the cannon into an effective weapon, during the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries, has there been such an opportunity for the urban architect. At that time, too, there was a remarkable increase in the number of new towns, for military and economic reasons. The new explosives required wholly new patterns for defense, and the period saw the rise of the military engineer, the specialist in defensive fortifications. He was an off-shoot of the architect, just as the city planner is today. The rise of mercantilism and the widening of the world's horizons to the Americas, the influx of gold which made a monetary system possible, and the revolutionary shift from feudalism to imperialism were forces making for the founding of new towns throughout Western Europe.

Much of this is at least analogous to conditions today. There are other interesting parallels. Old and established cities deteriorated. The great Hanseatic cities withered. Venice became a hollow

shell. In the course of a hundred years or so the vast Spanish empire shriveled away as English power swelled.

Nearly all the new towns were planned, they did not just grow. Since they had to be fortified, they were strictly limited as to size. There were various types of towns—military, commercial, religious; some were conservative in plan, some were experimental. A vast amount of theory was developed along both military and esthetic lines, and a lot of books were written expounding these theories. There were as many land-grabbing schemes then as now, and the authorities passed endless laws to control them. Presumably they did as little good as similar laws do today.

The military necessity was, of course, paramount. Within the fortifications there was always a central *place d'armes* from which all avenues of approach could be controlled and troops deployed. This was true no matter what the plan, whether it was the gridiron, the concentric or the radial pattern. Within that basic frame, land was assigned for the public buildings, the church and various kinds of residential use such as the row house, the individually built dwell-



ing, gardens, commons. The architectural aspect of the town was of great importance, for the sponsor was often a noble who had vanity as well as artistic pretention. Also there was a good deal of competition between towns, and appearance and livability were assets. In some cases so keen was the competition that modern devices were resorted to—free land to the builder of a substantial house; tax-exemption for a period of years; quashing of civil and even criminal convictions as inducements to settle in the community.

Most of these towns have been ruined by nineteenth-century industrialism. We have now before us the possibility of creating new industrial towns for our time as handsome architecturally as these were in theirs. For note well that similar general forces are again at work; a change from an oligarchic industrialism to a more democratic economy; a widening of international relations; enormous technological developments; a vast shift in the balance of trade power and routes, with the accompanying fall and rise of states; a wholly new military weapon.

As to this last, it is unpopular, or at least unfashionable, to talk about the atomic bomb. I doubt

the wisdom of this ostrich-like attitude. If it is true for the moment that there is no actual defense against the bomb, still its effects can be to some extent mitigated. Dispersion is one method, and it ties in with the pressure for dispersion for reasons I have already spoken of. Another method might be by division of cities into cells or units enclosed by bomb- and blast-proof concrete structures or walls. Such a device would permit the sacrifice of one cell in order to save the others. It would really mean the revival of the old walled city, a curious reversion to say the least. Or the limited-size greenbelt may be part of the answer. I am sure there will be as many books and theories and plans for these towns of the atomic age as there were for the towns of the age of gunpowder. As architects, we are bound to contribute to the thinking on this; we cannot, as intelligent professionals, leave it to the wholly destructive military mind. Or to the improvisation, inadequate and desperate, of war.

Some of my friends have said: "How can you talk that way? We must plan for peace and not even think about the Bomb, because if we are to have another war there is no use of planning anything at

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all." I cannot agree, for I have little faith in the pacific instincts of the alleged human race. I think we will have more wars. On the other hand, I have great faith in the biological will-to-survive. We have created a force of vast destructive power: I was about to say of *incalculable* destructive power, and then I remembered that that is just what it is not, and that therein is the saving grace. For the atomic bomb is a *calculated* release of atomic power. It is unlimited power calculated and controlled. That is is great achievement for the human race. The Bomb is but an incident.

The scientists have enlarged our physical horizons almost unbelievably. It is the function of the arts to enlarge our spiritual horizons. It is the art of architecture that does this in three dimensions, for all to see all the time, not just when they open a book or sit down to listen to music, or pause to look at painting or sculpture. Architecture, *urban* architecture, is our environment and cannot be escaped. It affects, subconsciously, even those who are the least aware of it.

The manifestation of that subconscious affect is what is called civic pride. Go to any city, town, or village and the citizen will say

to you, the stranger, "You must see our court house" or new bridge, or beautiful street of fine residences, or what not. Something, somewhere in his environment gives him satisfaction, pride. It is beautiful, it is unique to his town, it rejoices him. When this feeling extends to the whole city, or a large part of it, that is a triumph of architectural urbanism and not just city planning. The Acropolis, the Capitoline, the Place de la Concorde, the Chicago Lake Front come to mind. Or a quiet street in a town, or the chimneys of industry above the long lines of railroad tracks.

As we build and rebuild we must weld together the new elements of our time; the parking place instead of the market square; the express-way and its appurtenances—overpasses, cloverleaves, traffic signs, gas stations; the factory and its surroundings and approaches. They must be put to the service of the new needs for people—for these, of course, are changing, or perhaps it is better to say their desires and the possibilities of fulfillment are changing. And I venture to think that if we will provide these things as we should, in harmonious space-relations, adequately planned for the sites of

beautiful structures, the whole of architecture will rise to new heights and new dignity. For what is so depressing as to design a building that is smothered by its surroundings, or that has only a front—facade architecture as it is so largely practised today? On the other hand, a fine setting is an inspiration for a fine building, for every structure that can be well seen becomes a task for care and thought and beauty.

So that in our old cities and in those yet unbuilt we can have great new and exciting vistas, if only we have the imagination. We need not fear that we will depart too far from reality. William Blake has said: "Everything possible to be believed is an image of truth." As long as we deal with people and things we cannot go far astray, although we may not be able to build what it is possible for us to believe and hope for.

## The Dean's House, Princeton

ARCHITECTS who have read John Gunther's "Inside U. S. A." may be curious about what he called "the most beautiful house in the U. S. A." Inquiry of the author revealed that he had in mind the Dean's House, now the home of J. Douglas Brown, Dean of the Faculty. In "Princeton, Past and Present," published in 1945 by the Princeton University Press, there appears the following description:

The Dean's House, official residence of the Dean of the Faculty, northwest of Nassau Hall and facing Nassau Street, is contemporary with Nassau Hall, having been designed by Robert Smith and built

as the President's House in 1756. Until 1879 it was occupied by all presidents of the University except Dickinson, who died before the college moved to Princeton. Presidents Burr, Davies, and Edwards died in this house. Colonel Aaron Burr spent a year of his infancy here (1756-1757) during his father's presidency. John Adams, on his way to the Congress of 1774, visited President Witherspoon in this house and discussed current politics over a glass of wine. Washington must have crossed its threshold several times, although there is no record that he was ever entertained in it. One of the study windows carries an inscription





THE DEAN'S HOUSE (1756)  
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY,  
PRINCETON, N. J.

*Photograph copyright by Elizabeth G. C. Menzies*



*Do you know this building?*

*Photograph by Nicholas A. Romano  
A seventeenth-century stone mill,  
or a thirteenth-century church?*

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scratched on the glass in 1804. As early as 1761 the outside wall of the house served the students for handball; but the trustees, "having been made sensible of the Damages done to the President's House by the Students playing at Ball against it," absolutely forbade "all & any of the S'd Students, the officers & all other Persons belonging to the College," to play ball there under pain of five shillings fine. It seems to have been in this house, also, that Henry Clay, bringing his son up to college and paying an official call, was invited to sit down, and when he did so had his chair collapse under him. Picking himself up, he grimly expressed the hope

that the other chairs in the institution were on a more permanent basis. He did not know how nearly his hope echoed a wish in the heart of his host.

The house originally had a small entrance portico, the present wide porch and the eastern bay window having been added in 1868. The two giant sycamores at the gate are commonly associated with the repeal of the Stamp Act (1766), as the order for their planting was given in 1765. The house contains several pieces of furniture with Princeton official associations. It is not open to the public without invitation.



## Construction Needs Coordination

*By R. D. Sannit*

This is the final article in the series which Mr. Sannit started in July 1947 with the article, "Are Specifications Understandable?" Comment will be more than welcome, both by the author and the JOURNAL—Editor

**D**O YOU REMEMBER Stephen Leacock's great Lord Ronald? He "... flung himself upon his horse and rode madly off in all directions."

That seems to be what has happened to construction. It has

made fine progress—but in all directions. Almost all building trades have hooked on to shooting-stars in the form of modern production methods, and they have been carried to record heights.

The methods have advanced.

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But the trades have been pulling away from the central purpose of contracting—to get buildings up efficiently and economically.

This pushing ahead, yet pulling in one's own direction, has set up a centrifugal force. And now we see it is getting beyond our control. Costs are our safety gauge. They show that we are at the danger point.

This has already been recognized. The first remedy was the Modular System for coordinating the dimensions of building materials. It is a good start. But it will solve only one phase of our problem. There are many more.

A large part of the trouble lies in our present-day estimating methods. In previous articles for the JOURNAL, I have tried to point out the inefficiency and the exorbitant cost of the current system. The February article presented a plan to correct these faults—the Guaranteed Quantity Survey System.

We are here concerned with means of putting that system into operation—without disrupting the normal flow of construction projects.

The secret lies in careful planning and gradual change. Any one of us can make changes for the better—such is the sad state of our

estimating procedure. But we cannot set up arbitrary rules and expect everyone in the industry to follow them blindly. A strong reaction to such rules would result. Complete discard of the plan would follow. And we would then see a firm aversion to any idea like it for some time to come.

So we should give the problem all the study it warrants.

Coordination of all parts of construction is the keystone to any lasting reform. Included in building activity are the architect and engineer, the general contractor and well over a hundred types of subcontractors. Each has a vital interest in any changes that we make.



Perhaps the chief reason for our present lack of coordination is that one group does not know how the others work. A general contractor may, over a period of years, figure thousands of jobs. Yet he may still complain that architects' drawings and specifications are in many cases wholly inadequate to build by.

Some architects are so out of touch with actual construction practices that they continue to specify painting and glazing under one heading—as though the two

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items were still handled under one contract by the general contractor.

And both the architects and the general contractors are often completely ignorant of the inner workings of the subcontractor.

It is quite evident that under these circumstances we are not at all prepared to try out any new system. We hardly know how all phases operate now.

The first need, then, is to appraise our present-day construction procedure. Therefore, I propose that The American Institute of Architects and the Associated General Contractors of America jointly sponsor a thoroughgoing investigation of present-day estimating procedures. The aim would be twofold. First, to examine all branches of construction estimating. Secondly, to find out how each will be affected by any proposed changes.

A few selected members of the two organizations should be appointed as a Joint Commission for the express purpose of launching the investigation and supervising its progress.

To make the actual survey the Joint Commission could appoint a committee of three members—an architect, a general contractor and

an estimator. They would serve as the nucleus for the investigation, and would call upon the various trades for information and assistance as required.

The three committee members would devote their full time to the survey. It would take about a year of hard, persistent work. They would look into how construction—private and public—is figured and contracted for in several key regions of the United States. They would investigate the facilities available for training men at selected universities.

They would also make an on-the-scene study of methods used in those foreign countries where construction is close to, or on a par with, American processes.

Take England, for example. We have all heard many conflicting reports of how things are done over there. Some say we can benefit by using certain of their methods. Some say we'd do better to ignore them completely. But we have yet to see an authoritative report of just what their estimating methods are and whether they are used uniformly throughout the British Isles.

We should send the committee abroad to find out once and for all what is going on. There the ar-



chitect, the general contractor and the estimator can interview the various trade groups. They would study all phases of contracting as done by the English. When they complete the survey, they will be able to tell us about it in our own construction language.

Sweden, and perhaps Switzerland, should be studied too. These countries may have some good practices which we do not know about and would do well to adopt.

Construction is a universal enterprise. Like science, it knows no national borders. And progress in it is not the exclusive possession of any one people.

Having become familiar with United States and foreign contracting methods, the committee would take on the work of planning the Guaranteed Quantity Survey System. They would see what methods are good and should be kept and what practices are obsolete and costly. The latter can be discarded with unanimous approval.

The Committee of Three would then submit the report along with the full plan to the Joint Commission. The latter would consult with representatives of all trades concerned and make any adjust-

ments needed to serve their interests.

After considering the report, the Commission could appoint from the groups it represents, the men to be in charge of putting the plan into effect. These men would make the new system familiar to the industry. They should consult with educators about the course of study to be set up for a long-range program to train professional quantity surveyors in the new techniques.

Finally, they would pick the projects on which the system could be tried out and refined. In this way, theory will never get too far ahead of practice.

By working methodically along well-thought-out lines, the Commission could thus set the machinery for reform into operation.

As the system caught on with the trade and with the public, the Commission could guide its progress along the right course. When sufficient ground had been covered, the plan would become self-sustaining. Everyone concerned, from the owner down, would gradually reap the benefits from the new methods.

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the large trade associations put on Nation-wide advertising campaigns. They design these to show how essential their trade is to construction and what important service they render the public. However true and well intentioned these campaigns are, nothing can convince the public of efficiency like a real reduction in building costs—even a very slight reduction.

The Guaranteed Quantity Survey System can bring about a considerable savings through efficiency. So any investment we make toward getting the plan under way not only would repay us many times, but also would provide the best possible lobby in the public eyes.

The cost of carrying out this program covers the Joint Commission and the Committee of Three.

The expenses of the Joint Commission will be small. They will amount only to what is spent by the members in traveling to and staying at the city where the meetings are held.

The American Institute of Architects and Associated General Contractors should bear the expenses of their own representatives on the Commission.

The expenses of the Committee of Three would be more sizable. They would consist of:

1. *Salaries.* The three members of the Committee will be on leave of absence from their regular work. Since they would devote their full time to making the survey, they would have to receive full pay. They must be good, capable men, with a minimum of ten to fifteen years' experience in their respective fields of architecture, general contracting, and estimating. They must have the power to discern and preserve what is good in our present system. And, more important, they must have vision to foresee the benefits as well as the difficulties inherent in making changes.

2. *Travel Expenses.* To investigate fully the problems confronting the industry, the Commission would have to travel extensively. They would meet architects, contractors and subcontractors in all parts of the country. And they would make the same contacts abroad.

3. *Incidental Expenses.* These would consist mostly of pay for special help as required. Take-off men of the various subcontractors (such as glass, roofing, hardware, etc.), may have to be hired, on loan, for a few days at a time to give the Committee the proper insight into their individual problems. Stenographic help would be

needed in preparing the reports. Qualified interpreters would be essential for foreign travel in countries other than England.

The initial budget for the Committee of Three would run about \$50,000 to \$75,000. (This is not a great amount as research budgets go these days.) But, the Committee of Three should not be dependent on any one trade group, lest the money tend to influence the course of their action.

Rightfully, the survey should be financed by a Foundation interested in bettering construction practices in the United States. Failing this, however, it should be underwritten, jointly, by the various trade groups on an equitable basis.

The Associated General Contractors would have to take the lead in reaching all the various subcontractors' associations to explain the program and solicit their participation in it.

The percentage value of the work of each trade should be approximated for a typical large building. Let that represent the trade's relative interest in construction. It will also be the proportionate degree in which the trade will benefit from any reform in methods of securing contracts.

The Joint Commission would set up, supervise and approve any budget of the Committee of Three. The amount that each trade would furnish under the agreement would be an investment in a plan for more efficient operation. The savings to be made by the Guaranteed Quantity Survey System are such that on *one* large building project they can offset all the expenditures for getting the plan underway.

It is not inconceivable that the savings through more economical plan preparation, more efficient and more accurate estimating, and fewer job discrepancies can save close to one per cent of the total cost of the building. Thus the savings on a \$10,000,000 project (which is no rarity these days) could more than cover our budget. The ultimate savings to be made is seen in the fact that the volume of construction for 1947 was 6.5 billion dollars, and the estimated volume for 1948 is 7 billion.



The plan described above is designed primarily to get a Guaranteed Quantity Survey System into operation. If we try to go about it with anything less than such thorough preparation, we shall only be applying an-

other blowout patch to the already battered inner tube that is today's construction methods. The patch may hold, but the tube will certainly burst in another spot before long.

The complete survey which we have outlined here will provide for replacing gradually the old method with a thoroughly planned new one—one designed to utilize rather than obstruct the technical advances made by the industry.

While serving this purpose first, however, the organization would certainly produce other benefits.

I wonder how many of us realize how complex construction has become today. It is so complicated and involved that there is hardly

anyone who comprehends the operations of the *entire* building field—from the architect to the last subcontractor.

As a result, there is little or no correction of the many inefficiencies that have developed. There is little coordination, and this condition contributes to today's high overhead and high selling prices.

The Committee of Three idea can become the catalytic agent for many reforms. Similar committees can investigate and solve most of the problems that plague the letting of construction contracts.

The opportunity is there. The only need is to overcome our own inertia.

## Henry Van Brunt

**T**HERE should be no necessity of further identifying the portrait on the front cover this month, but probably there is that necessity; the present enlarged membership of The Institute is not familiar with the faces, or even the names, of those men who made and handed on to later generations the professional society distinguished by the letters A.I.A.

Henry Van Brunt was born in

Boston 1832; graduated from Harvard in 1854. He practised for a period in Boston, a partner of William R. Ware (first head of M.I.T.'s first architectural school). Memorial Hall and other buildings at Harvard were designed by this firm.

In 1887 Van Brunt moved to Kansas City and formed a partnership with Frank M. Howe—Van Brunt & Howe. This firm

designed the Electricity Building in the Court of Honor of Chicago's '93 Exposition, and also the Electricity Building in the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, opened in 1904—a year after Van Brunt's death.

Henry Van Brunt was a founder of the Boston Society of Archi-

tecs and served as its first vice president. He was elected Secretary of The Institute in 1861, and in 1899 he was elected its seventh President.

Author as well as architect, Henry Van Brunt wrote a number of architectural essays and translated Viollet le Duc's "Discourses on Architecture."

## Competitions

### International Competition for Low-cost Furniture Design

Under the auspices of the Museum of Modern Art and Museum Design Project, Inc., a competition will be held for the design of low-cost furniture. Prizes for a seating unit are: \$5,000, \$2,500 and \$1,250; for a storage unit: \$5,000, \$2,500 and \$1,250. The competition is open to designers in all countries. It will be judged by a jury consisting of Alfred Auerbach, Catherine Bauer, Luis de Florez, René d'Harnoncourt, Hugh Lawson, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and Gordon Russell. Competitors are required to indicate their intention to compete by means of an entry blank which, with full details, can be had from Edgar Kaufmann, Jr., Director, Department of Indus-

trial Design, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53d Street, New York 19, N. Y. The competition closes at midnight October 31, 1948.

### Competition for the Shopping Center of the Future

In connection with the Store Modernization Show scheduled to be held in Grand Central Palace, July 6-10, 1948, a competition will be held, which in its first stage will be conducted by various colleges. The second or final stage is a national judgment from among winners in the first stage. The prizes are \$500, \$250, \$125 and two honorable mentions of \$75 each. A jury will be selected from members of The A.I.A. and leading retailer executives. Further particulars can be had from John

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Evans, Managing Director, Store Modernization Show, 40 East 49th Street, New York 17, N. Y.

Final judgment and exhibition of drawings will be held at the show in New York, July 6-10.

## Calendar

*March 2-11:* Lectures "Cities in Transition," Bureau of Urban Research, Princeton University, Princeton, N. J.

*March 15-19:* Sixteenth Annual Meeting and Sixth Annual Industrial Exposition of the American Society of Tool Engineers, Cleveland, Ohio.

*March 22-24:* Chicago Technical Conference and Chicago Production Show, both sponsored by the Chicago Technical Societies Council, a federation of fifty-two societies. An atomic energy exhibit prepared by the American Chemical Society will be displayed at the Chicago Production Show, Stevens Hotel, Chicago.

*April 12-13:* Institute on hospital dietary departments, scheduled by the American Hospital Association, Kansas City, Mo.

*April 19-23:* Institute on hospital dietary departments, sched-

uled by the American Hospital Association, Buck Hill Falls, Pa.

*May 27-30:* Annual Conference of the R.I.B.A., to which A.I.A. members expecting to be in Europe are invited, Liverpool.

*June 22-25:* Eightieth Convention of The American Institute of Architects, Salt Lake City, Utah.

*June 26-July 1:* Formal constitutive assembly and first Congress of the International Union of Architects, Lausanne, Switzerland.

*July 6-10:* Store Modernization Show, Grand Central Palace, New York.

*September 20-23:* Fiftieth Anniversary Convention, American Hospital Association, Atlantic City, N. J.

*September 20-24:* Annual Technical Conference of the Illuminating Engineering Society, Hotel Statler, Boston.

## News of the Educational Field

THE COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN, University of Michigan, announces the appointment of Walter Sanders, of Sanders & Malsin, New York, as visiting Senior Critic in Architectural De-

sign. Mr. Sanders will serve during the first half of the spring semester of 1948.

Professor Jean Hébrard, for seventeen years Senior Critic in Design, goes on his retirement fur-

lough with the close of the fall semester of 1947-48.



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE of the University of Texas has recently been reorganized as a School of Architecture, consisting of two departments: the Department of Architecture and Planning, and the Department of Architectural Engineering.

Professor James J. Pollard, A. I. A.; national chairman of the Architectural Engineering Section of the A.S.E.E., has joined the staff as Professor of Architectural Engineering and chairman of the Department. M. Robert Louard, D.P.L.G., Delano and Aldrich

Fellow, has joined the staff of the Department of Architecture and Planning as a Visiting Lecturer in Design.



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE of The Pennsylvania State College announces that, beginning with the Fall Semester, 1948, the curricula in architecture and architectural engineering will be of five years duration. Both the professional and cultural phases of the courses have been strengthened, allowing the student greater freedom in the selection of courses in both the School of Engineering and the School of the Liberal Arts.



## Architects Read and Write

*Letters from readers—discussion, argumentative, corrective, even vituperative.*



### STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

By PAUL GERHARDT, JR., Chicago

IN SPEAKING with architects of various parts of the country, it is apparent that there is a fear that dangerous limitations may be read into the Standards of Professional Practice which were adopted by the Seventy-ninth Convention of The American Institute of Architects last year in Grand

Rapids, and published as Document No. 330 of The A. I. A. Some have gone so far as to consider resignation from The Institute rather than chance being subjected to the accusation of violation of the Mandatory Standards of Behavior.

An interchange of thinking on

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this subject should, therefore, be stimulated to determine the true intent of this document and whether modifications are advisable at the Salt Lake City Convention this June.

In the minds of many architects the question is raised as to whether detailed "Standards" are necessary. The first sentence of the aforementioned "Standards of Professional Practice" states: "The profession of architecture calls for men of the highest integrity, business capacity, and artistic and technical ability." "Does that not adequately tell the story?" they ask.

If it is still felt necessary or desirable that detailed standards of behavior be established and made mandatory upon Institute members, then either items 1 and 7, about which the greatest controversy exists, should be rephrased for greater clarity, or there should be created an explanatory list of those practices which are within the pale as distinguished from those without. Without clarification or interpretation, these paragraphs may even become a menace to the progress of the profession.

Item 1 of the Mandatory Standards of Behavior reads as follows:

"An architect is remunerated

for his services solely by his professional commission, salary, or fee, and is debarred from any other source of compensation in connection with the works or duties which are entrusted to him."

If an architect is offered a share of the profits of a building designed by him, either in lieu of his normal fee or in addition thereto, must he choose between refusal of such participation and membership in The Institute?

If an architect builds a home for a client is he debarred from enjoying said client's friendship as additional compensation? Ridiculous, of course. The obvious intent of the author of this provision was to bar "kickbacks" or other sinister remuneration. Its effect as interpreted, however, may prohibit the architect from participation in perfectly honorable ventures with which it is desirable for him and the profession to be identified.

Similarly, Item 7 reads as follows:

"An architect shall avoid exaggerated, misleading, or paid publicity. He shall not take part, nor give assistance, in obtaining advertisements or other support toward meeting the expense of any publication illustrating his works, nor shall he permit others to solicit



such advertising or other support in his name."

Strict interpretation of this provision would necessitate almost complete concealment of the identity of an architect with a project.

Certainly he could not permit a sign to be placed on the construction site with his name thereon, for such sign is paid for by someone. Should the architect cancel his subscriptions to architectural magazines? They might publish illustrations of his buildings, and surely his subscription aids in meeting the expense of said publication!

A large number of equally ludicrous illustrations could be cited, but there comes a point where the line between the sublime and the ridiculous cannot be so clearly drawn. The recently distributed minutes of the Charleston meeting of The Board reveal instances not so amusing.

A member of The Institute should not be subjected to the danger of implied malpractice when he extends his efforts in the building industry beyond those of a strictly professional relationship of architect and client, provided he does not confuse professional practice with his other business activity. An architect *should* be

permitted to have a financial interest in building promotion, building sale, building finance, or any other business, if separation between professional activities and financial activities is maintained distinct. And it can be! Those are the fields in which the architect has the greatest knowledge. His investments can naturally be more intelligently made therein. His effectiveness and usefulness can thereby be extended, and the position of the profession enhanced.

At the most recent meeting of The Board, in Charleston, several requests for interpretation of these provisions were considered. Certain thereof were determined, but the majority were referred to a special committee for study and recommendation. This alone indicates the lack of clarity imposed upon our members, thus restricting their actions.

We maintain that architects should be leaders of the building industry. We must, therefore, act in consonance with a changing world, but with firm convictions, steadfast ideals and courageous leadership. We cannot shunt responsibility. We cannot hide our heads in the sand. We must not

stand aside and let the parade pass by.

A reconsideration of the Principles of Practice is urged upon individual A. I. A. members, as well as chapters, in order that it may soon be determined whether membership in The Institute is not

in danger of becoming unduly restricted and whether the progressive attitude of the present-day architect is truly being served.

Certainly the Standards of Practice must be revised or interpreted to make clear our true intent.

### "SUNLIGHT AND THE HOSPITAL PATIENT"

By ISADORE ROSENFELD, New York

I TOO, READ the expressions of Messrs. Erikson and Cutler on "Sunlight and the Hospital Patient" in the December JOURNAL and like E. W. Dykes of Canton, Ohio, feel "that each was biased" and that "the readers' present opinions will be exactly those that they held before reading the two aforesaid articles."

As to Mr. Dyke's suggestion

that someone write on this subject, "based on fact, not opinion," I can only make reference to chapter 15, "Daylighting for Hospitals" in my book "Hospitals—Integrated Design." The above chapter was written pursuant to much research and was checked by an eminent aerobiologist. More recently I contributed "Germicidal Light for Classrooms" to *School and University Annual*, 1948.

### "HELP!"

By CHARLES A. PEARSON, JR., Radford, Va.

MR. TOM VANDEVELLE's piece entitled "Help!" in your January issue is timely—the thought, I believe, to be felt by the majority of architects—but I submit that it is correct and entirely in the groove only to a certain point: that of where he touches upon the student's or the beginner's side of the question.

We all will agree that it is imperative to keep new men coming

into the profession all of the time, and I believe if Mr. Vandeville were to observe more closely and reflect upon this aspect more extensively, he would find that by and large the majority of architects (even we small fry in small locales) throughout the land have given generously to the internship of novices—and are still trying to do so. But, alas, it might be said that the "worm is turning"!

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A young man myself, having not too long ago come up under able tutelage to value that tutelage at ten times what I would have drawn in salary, I have been in more than just passing contact with over a hundred students in the last three years, and have discovered a few general common denominators applicable to the average:

(1) The average student is not fully conscious of what he is doing or why while in school and has little or no concept as to the *true* nature of his path after graduation.

(2) He does not fully realize upon graduation, although holding a degree in architecture, that his college work is only the beginning (the true significance of his "commencement" rolling off like water on a duck's back), and somewhat, unconsciously or not, entertains illusions of grandeur as to his importance and immediate value to the profession.

(3) Consequently, upon graduation, with his knowledge of the fact that draftsmen are scarce, he expects and does ask for salary of \$350 per month and up.

(4) The average actually thinks he is worth these amounts, and while some of the very large firms do pay this scale of salary because their volume income enables them to cushion such, the average office, and particularly the small office operating on a smaller margin, could not think of paying him more than \$150 to \$200 to start with, with the result that he either goes

to the very large office where he receives the pay but not always the proper attention, or to the furniture or fixture industry which usually requires layout men only—this is not training architects.

All of us know that it takes a lot of the boss' time and that of the older men in the office to help new men along. If the values of these instruction times were added up, they would amount to well over \$400 or \$500 a month, in addition to the new man's check.

As to just what the answer to this problem may be, I am like most of the rest and have little or nothing to suggest, unless it would be that students be brought up in the schools on the idea that they are next to valueless to the average office upon their graduation and that they must expect, as doctors do, to support themselves almost entirely during their internship, or apprenticeship, as you choose to call it. It is very seldom that a medico interne receives any pay at all, and when he does it is usually little more than subsistence for himself only.

What to do with the married novice is another and more grave question. If he is a veteran the problem isn't so bad under the G. I. training program.

AMEN on the help of new people, but let us first train them to realize and fully appreciate their low value during the first year or so of their office experience.

## The Editor's Asides

IT HAS been suggested that the profession might develop a concise statement of principles governing its members in much the same way that the Hippocratic Oath, taken upon graduation, governs the doctors of medicine. If anyone with sufficient interest and with a flair for this sort of thing wants to attempt it, the A.I.A. Committee on Education would probably be glad to review the results and lend its backing to something of real promise.

HENRY S. CHURCHILL's "Notes on Frank Lloyd Wright," appearing in the February *Magazine of Art* is a piece of writing that no architect will want to miss. One of Wright's definitions of architecture happily is brought again to remembrance: "Architecture is the triumph of the human imagination over materials, methods and men."

JUST WHEN the idea of doing away with basements of houses seemed to be gaining wide acceptance HHFA technicians toss in a wet blanket. They cite results of a study made on the effects of "crawl space," on the durability and livability

of the dwelling. Particular attention is given in their article in the *HHFA Technical Bulletin* to "wetness," "dampness," "materials deterioration," "rodents," "vermin," and "must odors" found to be prevalent at most basementless dwellings.

IT MAY SURPRISE OTHERS, as it did us, to find that the JOURNAL is being mailed monthly to 25 foreign countries and to 121 individuals or organizations in these foreign lands. This does not include countrymen of our own who are temporarily abroad in the armed services. One might expect to find England and France well up on the list, but U.S.S.R. leads them all, with 17 subscribers; England has 15, France 12 and Argentine 11. At the other end of the list, with one lone subscriber each, are Czechoslovakia, Greece, Palestine and Switzerland.

LEWIS MUMFORD, a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters since 1930, has resigned from that distinguished body—not its first resignation, I believe—in protest against the Insti-

tute's award of its gold medal to Charles A. Beard, historian. Mr. Mumford does not believe that Dr. Beard's work should be honored, because for many years it had been a "one-sided partial view of history designed to bolster his own isolation," with "A Basic History of the United States" as a "particularly flagrant example" of an author's presentation of his views on isolation in the guise of recorded history.

OSCAR NIEMEYER, one of the architects assembled here last fall for the design of United Nations headquarters, returned thereafter to his home in Brazil. More recently, seeking a visa to enter this country and accept an invitation to lecture at the Yale School of Fine Arts, he was refused as being an avowed Communist. The State Department announced that its action was in accord with the 1918 Immigration Law as amended and interpreted. His first visit was on a U.N. visa; his proposed second visit was not so sponsored.

FRED HEATH, "Modulengineer since 1920," in his *Moduletter*, is coining so many new module derivatives that a new diction-

ary may be needed: "Modul-tapes," "Modulitems," "Modul-point System." We'd hardly be able to function nowadays without our Modulese.

Incidentally, more than 600 individual manufacturers now are producing or are prepared to produce their materials in coordinated sizes, according to David S. Miller, president of the Producers' Council. And there is a drafting aid in the form of a grid scale, placed under tracing paper or linen, making the use of the traditional box-wood scale unnecessary.

HENRY S. CHURCHILL, in the February JOURNAL: "Give your average business man a set of statistical tables and he thinks you have proved something. Give him a graph and he is convinced." Perhaps Raymond Foley, Administrator of the HHFA was moved by the same conviction. He has just issued a "Handbook of Housing Statistics." It is an investigation of statistics—how they are assembled, for what purpose, by whom, how reliable, how limited in their application. The book contains 180 pages, 135 tables, 28 charts. Don't look now, but your statistics are showing.

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